

Application Serial Number 10/507,538
 Response to Office Action
 Dated December 26, 2007

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2. Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication station adapted ~~that is suitable for~~ contactless communication with transponders and with further communication stations, comprising:

~~and that has~~ a first protocol-executing means designed to handle ~~adapted to function according to a station/transponder station-transponder protocol, with the aid of which the first protocol-executing means being adapted to effect communication can be effected between the communication station and at least one transponder while observing the station/transponder station-transponder protocol~~ [[.]]; and ~~that has~~

a second protocol-executing means designed to handle ~~adapted to function according to a station/station-station-station protocol that differs from the station/transponder station-transponder protocol in respect of at least one protocol parameter, with the aid of which the second protocol-executing means being adapted to effect communication can be effected between the communication station and at least one further communication station while observing the station[[/]]-station protocol.~~

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first protocol-executing means have energy-supply signal generating means that are ~~designed~~ adapted to generate an energy-supply signal each time the handling of the ~~station-transponder station-transponder~~ protocol starts, and wherein the second protocol-executing means have synchronizing-signal generating means that are ~~designed~~

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adapted to generate a synchronizing signal each time the handling of the station/station protocol starts.

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the station-station protocol is second protocol-executing means are designed to handle a station/station protocol that is arranged with a view to causing operative to cause only the least possible a minimal energy consumption at the communication station when communicating with the at least one further communication station.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A communication station as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first protocol-executing means are designed to handle adapted to function according to the a station/transponder station-transponder protocol that is adaptive to communicate arranged with a view to communication with a large number plurality of transponders, and wherein the second protocol-executing means are arranged with a view to establishing adapted to establish a communication connection to at least one further a plurality of communication stations as quickly as possible.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit for a communication station that is suitable for contactless communication with transponders and with further communication stations, comprising:
which integrated circuit has a first protocol-executing means designed to handle adapted to function according to a station/transponder station-transponder protocol, with the aid of which the first protocol-executing means being adapted to effect communication can be effected between the communication station and at least one transponder while observing the station/transponder station-transponder protocol[[,]]; and
which integrated circuit has a second protocol-executing means designed to handle adapted to function according to a station-stationstation/station protocol that differs from the station/transponder station-transponder protocol in respect of at least one protocol parameter, with the aid of which the second protocol-exccuting means being adapted to

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~~effect communication can be effected between the communication station and at least one protocol-further communication station while observing the station-station station/station protocol.~~

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first protocol-executing means have energy-supply signal generating means ~~that are designed~~ adapted to generate an energy-supply signal each time the handling of the station-transponder station/transponder protocol starts, and wherein the second protocol-executing means have synchronizing-signal generating means that are ~~designed~~ adapted to generate a synchronizing signal each time the handling of the station/station station-station protocol starts.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 5, wherein the ~~second protocol-executing means are designed to handle a station/station station-station~~ protocol is adapted to minimize ~~that is arranged with a view to causing only the least possible energy consumption at the communication station when communicating with the~~ at least one further communication station.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 5, wherein the first protocol-executing means are operative to function according to ~~designed to handle a station/transponder the station-transponder protocol, which is that is arranged with a view adaptive to communicate communication with a plurality large number of transponders, and wherein the second protocol-executing means are arranged with a view to establishing to establish a communication connection to a plurality of at least one further communication stations as quickly as possible.~~

9. (New) A communication system adapted for contactless communication, comprising:
a plurality of transponders;

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a plurality of communication stations, each comprising:

a microprocessor adapted to execute a station-transponder protocol and a station-station protocol, which differs from the station-transponder protocol by at least one protocol parameter, wherein each communication station is adapted to communicate with at least one other communication station.

11. (New) A communication system as claimed in claim 10, wherein each of the transponders is an RF tag.

12. (New) A communication system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the microprocessor is to generate an energy-supply signal.

13. (New) A communication system as claimed in claim 10, wherein the microprocessor is adapted to generate a synchronizing signal.

14. (New) A communication station adapted to communicate with a plurality of transponders, comprising:

a microprocessor adapted to execute a station-transponder protocol and a station-station protocol, which differs from the station-transponder protocol by at least one protocol parameter, wherein the communication station is adapted to communicate with at least one other communication station.

15. (New) A communication station as claimed in claim 14, wherein each of the transponders is an RF tag.

16. (New) A communication station as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microprocessor is to generate an energy-supply signal.

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17. (New) A communication station as claimed in claim 14, wherein the microprocessor is adapted to generate a synchronizing signal.